

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled).

6(Currently amended). The method of Claim ~~[[5]]~~ 16, wherein the cell differentiation-controlling material is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

8(Currently amended). A kit for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell line of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 18 and a reagent for detecting changes of properties of the cell line which may be caused by the action of a candidate cell differentiation-controlling material to be screened.

Claims 9-15 (Cancelled).

16(Currently amended). A method for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising:

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contacting a compound or a mixture of compounds with
using the cell line of claim 27 to screen for a cell
differentiation-controlling material; and
determining the capability of the compound or the
mixture of compounds to induce differentiation of the cell line.

17(Currently amended). The screening method of claim
[[27]] 16, wherein the material screened for is a gene.

18(Previously presented). A kit for screening for a
cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell
line of claim 27 and a reagent for detecting changes of
properties of the cell line which may be caused by the action of
a candidate cell differentiation-controlling material to be
screened.

Claims 19-26 (Cancelled)

27(Previously presented). The cell line which bears
accession no. FERM BP-5823.